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United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
BRENDA VILLA,  
  
Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:22-CR-245 WBS

STIPULATION AND JOINT REQUEST FOR  
PROTECTIVE ORDER; PROTECTIVE ORDER

**I. STIPULATION**

1. Plaintiff United States of America (“government”), by and through its counsel of record, and defendant Brenda Villa (“defendant”), by and through her counsel of record (collectively, the “parties”), for the reasons set forth below, hereby stipulate, agree, and jointly request that the Court enter a Protective Order in this case restricting the use and dissemination of certain materials containing personal identifying information (“PII”) of real persons and other confidential information of victims, witnesses, and third parties.

2. On December 8, 2022, a Grand Jury returned an indictment charging defendant with one count of Conspiracy to Commit Falsification of Records in Federal Investigation, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, three counts of Falsification of Records in Federal Investigation, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1519, and one count of False Declarations Before Grand Jury, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1623. ECF No. 1.

1           3.       As part of its investigation in the above-captioned case, the government is in possession  
2 of materials relating to the charges against defendant, including voluminous business records and  
3 documents and items recovered from electronic devices, that contain PII and other confidential  
4 information of real persons, including, among other things, personal names, phone numbers, addresses,  
5 Social Security numbers, and dates of birth. These real persons are victims, witnesses, co-defendants, or  
6 third parties to this case. Other investigative materials also include medical records, photographs and  
7 audio and visual recordings of victims, witnesses, co-defendants, or third parties.

8           4.       The government seeks to provide these materials to counsel for the defendant. Some of  
9 the materials may exceed the scope of the government's discovery obligations and will be produced to  
10 promote a prompt and just resolution or trial of the case.

11           5.       The purpose of the proposed Protective Order is to prevent the unauthorized  
12 dissemination, distribution, or use of materials containing the PII of others or their confidential  
13 information. If this information is disclosed without protective measures, or to defendant without  
14 limitation, it may risk the privacy and security of the people to whom the information relates. The  
15 United States has ongoing statutory and ethical obligations to protect victims.

16           6.       Due to the nature of the charges and the alleged conduct in this case, PII makes up a part  
17 of the discovery materials, and this information in some instances has evidentiary value itself. The large  
18 quantity of privacy-protected information would be difficult or time-consuming to redact. Further, if the  
19 government were to attempt to redact all this information, the defense would receive a set of discovery  
20 that would be confusing and difficult to understand, and could inhibit prompt and just resolution of the  
21 case or preparation for trial.

22           7.       Accordingly, the parties jointly request a Protective Order that will permit the  
23 government to produce discovery that is unredacted, but preserves the privacy and security of victims,  
24 witnesses, and third parties. The parties agree that the following conditions, if ordered by the Court in  
25 the proposed Protective Order, will serve the government's interest in maintaining the privacy and  
26 security of victims and third parties, while permitting the Defense Team to understand the United States'  
27 evidence against the defendant.

28           8.       This Court may enter protective orders pursuant to Rule 16(d) of the Federal Rules of

Criminal Procedure, Local Rule 141.1, and its general supervisory authority.

## **II. PROTECTIVE ORDER**

### **A. Protected Materials**

9. This Order pertains to all discovery provided or made available to defense counsel in this case (hereafter, collectively “Protected Materials”).

10. For purposes of the Protective Order, the term “Personal Identifying Information” (“PII”) includes any information within the definition of a “means of identification” under 18 U.S.C. § 1028(d)(7) or any information within the definition of an “access device” under 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(1).

11. To the extent that notes are made that memorialize, in whole or in part, the PII or confidential information in any Protected Materials, or to the extent that copies are made for authorized use by members of the Defense Team, such notes, copies, or reproductions become Protected Materials, subject to the Protective Order and must be handled in accordance with the terms of the Protective Order.

### **B. Defense Team**

12. For purposes of this Order, the term “Defense Counsel” refers to the defendant’s counsel of record.

13. For purposes of this Order, the term “Defense Team” refers to (1) the defendant’s counsel of record, (2) other attorneys at defense counsel’s law firm or defense organization who may be consulted regarding case strategy in the above-captioned matter, (3) defense investigators who are assisting defense counsel with this case, (4) retained experts or potential experts, and (5) paralegals, legal assistants, and other support staff to defendant’s counsel of record providing assistance on this case. The term “Defense Team” does not include defendant, the defendant’s family, or other associates of the defendant.

14. Defense Counsel must provide a copy of this Order to all members of the Defense Team.

a) Defense Counsel will inform members of the Defense Team that they are bound by the terms and conditions of this Protective Order, prior to providing any Protected Materials to the members of the Defense Team.

1           **C.     Disclosure of Protected Materials**

2           15.     The Defense Team shall not permit anyone other than the Defense Team to have  
3 possession of the Protected Materials, including the defendant herself except as noted in Paragraph 17.

4           16.     No person or party shall use any Protected Materials or information derived from  
5 Protected Materials produced in this action for any purpose other than use in the above-captioned case.  
6 All Protected Materials shall be used solely for the purpose of conducting and preparing for pre-trial,  
7 post-trial, and appellate proceedings (both direct and collateral) and in this criminal action for no other  
8 purposes whatsoever, and shall not be used for the economic or other benefit of the defendant, or any  
9 third party. Protected Materials may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the  
10 conditions described in this Order.

11           17.     Defendant may review Protected Materials in this case only in the presence of a member  
12 of the Defense Team. Defendant may, however, review Protected Materials in her attorney's office  
13 without a member of the defense team being present provided that defendant does not have access to a  
14 cellphone or any recording device. Defendant agrees not to photograph, copy, or video record any  
15 Protected Materials. Defendant may not copy, keep, maintain, or otherwise possess any of such  
16 Protected Materials at any time, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement. Defendant must return  
17 any Protected Materials to the Defense Team at the conclusion of any meeting at which defendant  
18 reviews the Protected Materials. Defendant may not take any Protected Materials out of the room in  
19 which she is meeting with the Defense Team. Defendant may not write down or memorialize any PII or  
20 confidential information contained in the Protected Materials. At the conclusion of any meeting with  
21 defendant, the member of the Defense Team present shall take with him or her all Protected Materials.

22           18.     The Defense Team may review Protected Materials with a witness or potential witness in  
23 this case, subject to the requirement above that a member of the Defense Team must be present if  
24 Protected Materials are being shown. Before being shown any portion of the Protected Materials,  
25 however, any witness or potential witness must be informed of the existence of the Protective Order and  
26 given a copy of the Protective Order. No witness or potential witness may retain Protected Materials, or  
27 any copy thereof, after his or her review of those materials with the Defense Team is complete.

28           19.     This Order does not limit employees of the United States Attorney's Office for the

Eastern District of California from disclosing the Protected Materials to members of the United States Attorney's Office, law enforcement agencies, the Court, and defense.

20. Defense Counsel shall advise the United States with reasonable notice of any subpoenas, document requests, or claims for access to the Protected Materials by third parties if Defense Counsel is considering disseminating any of the Protected Materials to a third party, in order that the United States may take action to resist or comply with such demands as it may deem appropriate.

**D. Ensuring Security of Protected Materials**

21. The Defense Team shall maintain the Protected Materials safely and securely, and shall exercise reasonable care in ensuring the security and confidentiality of the Protected Materials by storing the Protected Materials in a secure place, such as a locked office, or otherwise secure facility where visitors are not left unescorted.

22. A copy of the Protective Order must be stored with the discovery, in paper form and electronically.

23. To the extent that Protected Materials, or any copies or reproductions thereof, are stored electronically, the Protected Materials will be stored on a password-protected or encrypted storage medium, including a password-protected computer, or device. Encryption keys must be stored securely and not written on the storage media that they unlock.

24. If a member of the Defense Team makes, or causes to be made, any further copies of any of the Protected Materials, Defense Counsel will ensure that the following notation is written, stamped or inscribed on whatever folder, container, or media contains the copies: "PROTECTED MATERIALS-SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER." For example, if Defense Counsel makes a copy of a disc or physical file containing Protected Materials, the duplicate disc or file must be encrypted and marked with the above notation.

**E. Conclusion of Prosecution**

25. The provisions of this Order shall not terminate at the conclusion of this prosecution. All Protected Materials subject to the Protective Order maintained in the Defense Team's files shall remain subject to the Protective Order unless and until such Order is modified by the Court.

26. Upon final disposition of the case, subject to counsel's ethical and professional

obligations regarding document retention, including exhaustion of direct and collateral appellate proceedings, Defense Counsel shall return the Protected Materials to the government, or certify in writing that the Protected Materials have been destroyed. If any Protected Materials are used as defense exhibits, they shall be maintained with government exhibits so long as those are required to be maintained.

27. If, upon final disposition of the case, defendant requests a copy of the Protected Materials from Defense Counsel, Defense Counsel may provide a copy of the Protected Materials to the defendant provided that Defense Counsel ensures that all PII or confidential information contained in the Protected Materials is fully redacted and the copy bears the inscription as described in Paragraph 24. If Defense Counsel provides a redacted copy to defendant subject to the above conditions, Defense Counsel or a member of the Defense Team must contemporaneously attest in writing that it has fully redacted PII and any confidential information from the Protected Materials and complied with this Order. This written certification need not be disclosed or produced to the United States unless ordered by the Court.

**F. Termination or Substitution of Counsel**

28. In the event that there is a substitution of counsel prior to final disposition of the case, new counsel of record must join this Protective Order before any Protected Materials may be transferred from the undersigned defense counsel to the new defense counsel. New defense counsel then will become Defense Counsel for purposes of this Protective Order, and become Defense Team's custodian of materials, and shall then become responsible, upon the conclusion of appellate and post-conviction proceedings, for complying with the provisions set forth in Paragraph 27 above. All members of the Defense Team, whether current or past counsel, are at all times subject to the Protective Order and are not relieved by termination of representation or conclusion of the prosecution.

**G. Modification of Order**

29. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking modification to the Order or from objecting to discovery it otherwise believes to be improper. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking a more restrictive protective order with regard to particular discovery items.

**H. Violation of Order**

30. Any person who willfully violates this Order may be held in contempt of court and

maybe subject to monetary of other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Court. This provision does not expand or narrow the Court's contempt powers.

**I. Application of Laws**

31. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect or comment on the admissibility or discoverability of the Protected Materials.

32. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect the application of and the parties' compliance with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Local Rules, and applicable statutes.

Dated: November 3, 2023

PHILLIP A. TALBERT  
United States Attorney

By: /s/ ROSANNE L. RUST  
ROSANNE L. RUST  
MICHAEL D. ANDERSON  
Assistant United States Attorneys

Dated: November 3, 2023

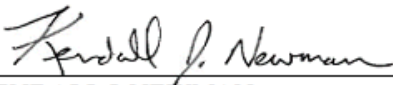
By: /s/ JEROME PRICE  
JEROME PRICE  
Counsel for Defendant  
Brenda Villa

**FINDINGS AND ORDER**

The Court having read and considered the Stipulation and Joint Request for a Protective Order, which this Court incorporates by reference in full, hereby finds that GOOD CAUSE exists to enter the above Order.

IT IS SO FOUND AND ORDERED.

Dated: November 3, 2023

  
KENDALL J. NEWMAN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE